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Regional cooperation

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Agim Nesho (Albania), on the basis of informal consultations

The Damascus Declaration and the role of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000,

Also reaffirming the commitments made in partnership between developed and developing countries for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,

Affirming the importance of intensifying cooperation between the countries of the region in order to realize the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, by 2015,

Commending the efforts of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in that field and the report on progress made towards realizing the Millennium Development Goals in that region,[1] submitted to the Commission at its twenty-third session,

1. *Takes note* of the Damascus Declaration, adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia at its twenty-third session;

2. *Affirms* the importance of increasing economic growth and linking that growth to the formulation of strategies for the eradication of poverty and unemployment and the achievement of social integration, with a view to realizing the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, including by adopting the general policies necessary in

[1] E/ESCWA/23/4 (Part II).

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respect of employment generation, social security, the improvement of living conditions, particularly for vulnerable persons, combating corruption and the strengthening of accountability;

3. *Stresses* the need for member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to coordinate at the regional level in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

4. *Urges* the United Nations organizations that are working in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia region to coordinate their activities in order to meet regional needs and to focus, in the meetings of the regional coordination group organized by the Commission, on the progress of the region towards the realization of those goals;

5. *Requests* the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to provide support to member countries in realizing the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, including by building capacities to formulate policies, monitor the progress made, measure its impact and prepare regional reports;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the progress made in this regard to the Commission at its twenty-fourth session.